Arts and Trails series celebrates cultural heritage

Arts and Trails, a series of traditional arts performances in state parks, wrapped up a successful first summer in August with the Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival at Sacajawea State Park. The festival featured well-known Northwest performers Northfork, Bodie Dominguez, Justin Booher and Dick Warwick.

The popular series is a collaboration among State Parks, the Washington State Arts Commission and Northwest Folklife of Seattle, as part of the State Parks Centennial 2013 Plan component, "Our Commitment – Enjoyment, Health and Learning." The

initiative is intended to help citizens connect with Washington's heritage.

dance, logger poetry, Native American basket weaving and music of the Discovery

"Our state Series events drew appreciative crowds parks are at six Washington state parks along the Lewis and Clark Trail, beginning in April perfect at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, settings for Cape Disappointment State Park. Events these events." through the summer featured an array of cultural performances that included - Jens Lund, storytelling, shadow puppet plays, Chinese Arts in the Parks rod puppets, Finnish folk music and

manager

Corps era. All events were free to visitors with a daily or annual parking permit.

Jens Lund, manager for the Folk and Traditional Arts in the Parks Program, credits the Arts and Trails series' success to the unique partnership between public and private groups. "My position is actually funded as a partnership coordinator between the Arts Commission and State Parks," he says. "Northwest Folklife was able to add its experience with cultural event production so that we could share the state's incredible, diverse cultural riches. Our state parks are perfect settings for these events."

State Parks also worked with the National Endowment for the Arts in presenting a summer Latino-themed series that included a Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at Osoyoos Lake State Park in Okanogan; a Fourth of July concert at Wenatchee Confluence State Park; and folk arts fiestas at Yakima Sportsman and Pearrygin Lake state parks.

Look for more cultural events in state parks next spring and summer.



Native American dance: Ranger Chris Ford dances with members of Three Generations (of United Indians of All Tribes, Seattle) and Wapato Indian Club (of Wapato Middle School, Wapato) in May at Arts & Trails' Native American Heritage Day at Sacajawea State Park, Pasco.

Your state parks – still at your service

As your park system prepares to celebrate its 100th birthday in 2013, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission dedicates the agency's efforts to fulfilling its vision for the next century:

"In 2013, Washington's state parks will be premier destinations of uncommon quality, including state and regionally significant natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources that are outstanding for the experience, health, enjoyment and learning of all people."

The Centennial 2013 Plan, designed to guide the Commission, the public and policy-makers in these preparations, has a three-part focus that includes enhancing basic programs and services, building new trails, parks and water access for a fast-growing state, and working with communities and volunteers to create 100 new features in parks all over the state.

A central focus this past summer was in the areas of public service and enjoyment, health and learning, through ranger interpretive programs and cultural events.

Centennial 2013 Plan Endorsements

Washington Recreation & Park Association • Bob Morse • Naches Ranger District • East Valley Fire Department • Washington State Department of Ecology • Methow Conservancy • Tacoma Power • Bureau of Reclamation, Ephrata • Terrace Heights Improvement Association • Friends of Camano Island Parks • Dan Blatt • James S. Russell • Jan P. Klippert • Rena Marken • Nicole Hellstrom • Washington Federation of State Employees • Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery Complex • Ralph and Karen Munro • Capital Medical Center • National Coast Trail Association • The Olympian • Gayla Perini • Washington State Park Rangers Association • Washington Water Trails Association • Tiri-Cities Visitor and Convention Bureau • Werner Furrer • Friends of the South Cle Elum Depot • The Trust for Public Land • Centrum Arts and Creative Education • Bridle Trails Park Foundation • Citizens for Parks and Recreation • Grays Harbor County Commission • County Commission • County Commission • County Commission • Parks and Recreation • Grays Harbor County Commission • County Commission • County Commission • County Commission • County Gardiel Board of County Commission • Part and Darlene Bleakney • Columbia Gorge Windsuffing Association • Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Board • Lake Washington Saddle Club • Tom Rieger • Pateros Chamber of Commerce • Audubon Washington • Chinook Trail Association • Scott and Judy Whiting • Sharin J. Lee • Carol Bee • Helen Bee • Backcountry Horsemen of Washington • Echo Betrozoff • Chuck and Judythe Stewart • Scott Wise • KMPS Radio • Burnie and Beth Horton • Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce • Dana Miller • Phil and Candace Trautman • Milke and Sue Murphy • The Center for Wooden Boats • Thurston County Fastpitch Association • Duane and Susan Hoekstra • Susan Hines-Elzinga • Duncan Hollomon • Wendell and Wilma Carter • Friends of Fort Worden • Gary and Sandra Worthington • James R. Ricks • Erik Elzinga • Madeline Johnson • Alice Blandin • Dr. and Mrs. Wesley M. Brock • Lisa Byers • Mark Philips • Pat Fitzgerald • State

CENTENNIAL 2013 IN ACTION

Millersylvania staff brings old cabin to new life as 'Lakeside Cottage'

Thanks to the creative vision of State Parks staff, a run-down fishing cabin on Deep Lake at Millersylvania State Park near Olympia has been renovated into a charming, two-story rental cottage.

Built in the 1930s by the family that owned land at the present-day park, the cabin had long been vacant. Park and Southwest Region staff saw the cabin's potential, and when the region found some funds for them to work with, park manager Sherman Scott says staff enlisted a Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) crew to help. The rehabilitated cabin opened to its first guests this spring.

The fully furnished Lakeside Cottage

accommodates groups of up to six people and since May has accommodated 57 guests. Park ranger Evan Johnson, formerly on the construction crew, says guests remark on its comfort and the quality of its furnishings.

"The director of Florida State Parks stayed here after the national park directors' conference, and he seemed very impressed," says Johnson. "Guests really like the fishing theme that Ranger Scott used in the décor."

Beautiful wood furnishings and lodgestyle touches make the cabin attractive and welcoming.

For more information, please visit the State Parks Web site at www.parks.wa.gov, and click on year-round vacation rentals.



Cottage in the woods: The renovated Lakeside Cottage at Millersylvania State Park sleeps up to six people.

Spokane Centennial bridge links trails

The first season's worth of walkers, runners and cyclists has enjoyed the benefits of a new bridge linking High Bridge City Park in Spokane with the Centennial Trail that runs through Riverside State Park.

After 10 years of planning and discussion, the Sandifur Memorial Bridge was completed, making it possible for trail users to cross the Spokane River and get downtown. The bridge also makes possible an anticipated future connection of the Centennial Trail with Columbia Plateau Trail State Park at Cheney and the eventual link of Spokane with the Tri-Cities.

The \$2.5 million project included State Parks funds, along with grants from transportation enhancement, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and U.S. Forest Service. Donations came from Metropolitan Mortgage, Spokane Parks Foundation, Friends of the Centennial Trail, Spokane



Ribbon-cutting: State Parks commissioners Joe Taller (second from left) and Clyde Anderson (center), along with other community representatives, officially open the Sandifur Memorial Bridge.

Community Development Board, Spokane Bicycle Club, Bloomsday Association, Latah Neighborhood and Round and Round Productions (Blazing Bike Club.)

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has made a commitment to trails as part of its Centennial 2013 Plan. State Parks trails coordinator Joe Sobinovsky is working with government agencies and organizations to create a network of trails and eventually a cross-state trail.

Besides the 37-mile Spokane Centennial Trail, State Parks is responsible for managing several long-distance recreation trails, including the Iron Horse State Park John Wayne Pioneer Trail, 113 miles from North Bend to Vantage; Columbia Plateau Trail State Park, 23 of 130 miles developed, eventually going from Cheney to Tri-Cities; Willapa Hills State Park rail trail, 56 miles to be developed linking Chehalis to Raymond; and the Klickitat Trail, 31 miles to be developed from Lyle to Warwick. The Cascadia Marine Trail, jointly managed with Washington Water Trails, stretches along Puget Sound with stopover sites between Olympia and Canada.

Two Columbia River trails are being opened now by a broad consortium of partner groups. (Watch for more information in a future edition of Centennial News.)

Recent accomplishments, programs in state parks

Park "goes green": Staff at Lake Wenatchee State Park, one of the five Centennial 2013 Model Stewardship Parks in the state parks system, are finding ways to save energy and money using a number of earth-friendly practices. Switching to energy-efficient lighting, timers and motion sensors has saved on energy costs. Waterless urinals, low-flow toilets and monitoring of well and waste water is helping the park meet conservation goals. Careful purchasing plays a role as well; recycled-fiber toilet paper, processed without the use of chlorine and other chemicals, and hand driers instead of paper towels mean less hazardous waste in waterways. The recent purchase of an electric vehicle for park chores is saving on emissions and eliminating the need for gas.

Rangers on wheels: The Washington State Parks Visitor Protection and Law Enforcement program put 65 park rangers on bikes this past summer in more than 40 parks across the state. The bikes save gas money, give rangers greater access to the variety of terrains in parks and get them closer to park visitors, where they are available to answer questions and guarantee visitor safety and enjoyment.

Lewis and Clark Nickel: More than 1,000 people showed up on a sunny August weekend at Cape Disappointment State Park in Ilwaco to enjoy a special unveiling of the U.S. Mint "Ocean in View" Nickel, commemorating the Lewis and Clark expedition. Presentations by the Washington State Historical Society, National Park Service, Chinook Indian Tribe and Congressman Brian Baird were followed by a nickel exchange and giveaway, sale of a nickel cup of coffee and other fun events, including autograph signings by Joe Fitzgerald, designer of the Ocean in View and Bison nickels.

Washington plays host to national park directors: The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission recently played host to the annual conference of the National Association of State Park Directors. Each state gets the hosting opportunity once in 50 years. The conference at Semiahmoo Resort was sponsored by the Washington State Parks Foundation, B.C. Parks, Parks Canada and a number of state and national businesses and featured keynote speaker Jim Whittaker, mountaineer, and author of "Living on the Edge." Conference sessions allowed Washington State Parks staff and directors from 45 states to share spirit-lifting discussions and presentations, trends and ideas to enrich public service to state park visitors. Visiting directors took side trips to some of Washington's premiere features and recreation opportunities, including salmon fishing, whale watching and a trip to Mount Baker. Working together to help coordinate the inspirational conference provided a rich staff development opportunity and a link with the Centennial 2013 goal of strengthening public service with versatile and valued employees, volunteers and partners.